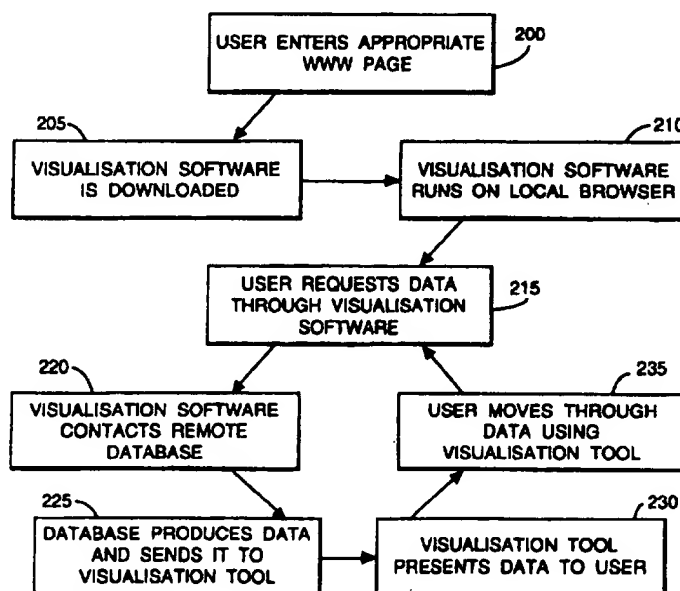




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : G06F 9/46		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 97/15007
			(43) International Publication Date: 24 April 1997 (24.04.97)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB96/02528		(74) Agent: DUTTON, Erica, Lindley, Graham; BT Group Legal Services, Intellectual Property Dept., 8th floor, 120 Holborn, London EC1N 2TE (GB).	
(22) International Filing Date: 16 October 1996 (16.10.96)			
(30) Priority Data: 95307335.0 16 October 1995 (16.10.95) EP		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
(34) Countries for which the regional or international application was filed: GB et al.			
(60) Parent Application or Grant (63) Related by Continuation US 622,346 (CIP) Filed on 25 March 1996 (25.03.96)			
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): BRITISH TELECOMMUNICATIONS PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY [GB/GB]; 81 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ (GB).		Published With international search report.	
(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): SHARPLES, Peter, Adrian [GB/GB]; 28 Mill Road, Newbourne, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 4NP (GB). FAUTH, Marco, Jürgen [GB/GB]; 18 Withipoll Street, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 2BZ (GB).			

(54) Title: REMOTE ACCESS DATA VISUALISATION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract

Using a World Wide Web browser (190) having the capability of downloading software, a user can download data together with data visualisation software. In a particular arrangement, the user can download traffic data from the call records of a network provider, in relation to particular network numbers. By downloading a data visualisation software tool at the same time, the user can look almost in realtime at events on the network (130). This means a service provider, providing a service on the network (130), can monitor the response to an advertising campaign for instance where a Freephone number has been launched.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AM	Armenia	GB	United Kingdom	MW	Malawi
AT	Austria	GE	Georgia	MX	Mexico
AU	Australia	GN	Guinea	NE	Niger
BB	Barbados	GR	Greece	NL	Netherlands
BE	Belgium	HU	Hungary	NO	Norway
BF	Burkina Faso	IE	Ireland	NZ	New Zealand
BG	Bulgaria	IT	Italy	PL	Poland
BJ	Benin	JP	Japan	PT	Portugal
BR	Brazil	KE	Kenya	RO	Romania
BY	Belarus	KG	Kyrgyzstan	RU	Russian Federation
CA	Canada	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	SD	Sudan
CF	Central African Republic	KR	Republic of Korea	SE	Sweden
CG	Congo	KZ	Kazakhstan	SG	Singapore
CH	Switzerland	LI	Liechtenstein	SI	Slovenia
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	LK	Sri Lanka	SK	Slovakia
CM	Cameroon	LR	Liberia	SN	Senegal
CN	China	LT	Lithuania	SZ	Swaziland
CS	Czechoslovakia	LU	Luxembourg	TD	Chad
CZ	Czech Republic	LV	Latvia	TG	Togo
DE	Germany	MC	Monaco	TJ	Tajikistan
DK	Denmark	MD	Republic of Moldova	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
EE	Estonia	MG	Madagascar	UA	Ukraine
ES	Spain	ML	Mali	UG	Uganda
FI	Finland	MN	Mongolia	US	United States of America
FR	France	MR	Mauritania	UZ	Uzbekistan
GA	Gabon			VN	Viet Nam

REMOTE ACCESS DATA VISUALISATION SYSTEM

The present invention relates to a system and/or process for remote access to data and visualisation thereof. It finds particular application in data
5 monitoring.

Data visualisation techniques are known and clearly useful. There are many scenarios in which a user may have complex and extensive data available to them. The ability to present large data sets in a graphical form which allows a user to gain more understanding of the original data has been the focus of the emerging
10 subject of scientific visualisation for the past few years. In a typical visualisation application, data is represented in the form of a three dimensional graphical object on a computer display screen. The shape and colouring of the object are dictated by the data set from which it was derived. The user has the ability to move and turn the object on the screen and adjust the lighting angles to highlight features in
15 the data set. The use of animation, where the form of the object varies in time according to changes in the base data, is also a valuable mechanism in communicating trends in the data set.

Visualisation is used for instance within the scientific and academic communities to examine the results of simulations and experiments. The data is
20 generally stored locally to the computer on which the visualisation is to be performed and each set of data is approached with the user writing software to produce a different visualisation. Thus visualisation is a mechanism of data access used by technical users who understand the nature of, and access methods for, their data. It has now been realised, in making the present invention, that it is
25 possible and advantageous to find a way to give remote access to data, together with visualisation capability, to non-technical users.

According to the present invention, there is provided a remote access data visualisation system comprising:

- i) a communications network;
- 30 ii) access means for use in accessing a database;
- iii) means for receiving a user request in relation to visualisation of data stored in the database; and

- iv) at least one data visualisation software tool for visualising data from the database, the tool being stored, when not in use by a user, so as to be downloadable to a user location,
wherein the system is adapted to respond to a received user request in relation to
5 data visualisation by downloading:
a) the data visualisation software tool; and
b) location information for data for use by the tool in visualisation,
to the user location.

The user location can be remote with respect to either or both of the
10 database and the storage location for the software tool.

It will be understood that the network may in practice comprise more than one type of network. For instance, the network may in practice be provided by a local area network connected to a public switched telecommunications network and/or to the Internet.

- 15 Preferably, the system further comprises means for loading and updating data in the database in a form which can be queried by the data visualisation software tool when downloaded to the user location. This allows a system operator also to provide the relevant data for the user to visualise.

- By providing a suitable data visualisation means, such a system can enable
20 a non-technical user, at a remote location with respect to a database, to access a complex data set and to control the manner of presentation so that the data is presented in a graphic and understandable way. This brings data visualisation techniques to a far greater range of users. For instance, data visualisation could, according to embodiments of the present invention, provide significant benefits to
25 commercial fields, particularly the financial and telecommunications industries, where large quantities of data are routinely collected on computerised monitoring systems. Allowing a wider range of people within an organisation, with widely differing technical capabilities, to examine this data could for instance provide a valuable insight into the effectiveness of a particular operation. Alternatively, an
30 organisation might want to provide better information to their customers.

A problem solved by embodiments of the present invention is moving the field of data access and visualisation from the province of the technical expert

situated close to the data source to the area of access by a geographically diverse set of users with varying levels of experience and different types of equipment.

In a particularly useful and advantageous embodiment, the data to be accessed may comprise traffic data for a communications network. A user who
5 has an interest in traffic on that network may then be able to download and visualise the data in an extremely useful way. For instance, if the user is a service or information provider, it would be possible for the user to get extremely early feedback on the response to a new or modified service, or to an advertising campaign, in a way which has not previously been available. The data
10 visualisation software tool will of course in these cases generally be a tool for visualising communications traffic and may provide for instance a bar chart format and/or geographical indicators.

Preferably, the means for receiving a user request comprises authentication means for authenticating a received request as being made by an
15 authorised user. This means that the database could contain confidential information.

As mentioned above, the user request may carry an identifier for data to be selected from the database, in which case the authentication means may authenticate the request specifically in relation to the data to be selected. A
20 system of this type would have particular relevance where the data comprises communications traffic statistics in a network and the identifier may comprise one or more telephone numbers in which the user may have an interest. For instance, this may be because the user is a service provider, using said one or more telephone numbers in provision of the service. Preferably, the system then further
25 comprises means to read the identifier and to download, together or in association with the data visualisation software tool, one or more addresses for location of the data to be selected.

Effectively, it becomes possible to provide a practicable system of remote access data visualisation. The system of providing a data access method to a
30 remote computer where the data presentation and access software are retrieved by the user automatically at the time of data access is a new technique in data distribution. If the data relates to traffic statistics in a communications network, then this is a particularly useful system for the service provider who can monitor

almost in real time the success or otherwise of a particular communications service.

Another use of an embodiment of the invention might be to access data relating to financial transactions. In this case, an identifier for relevant data might
5 comprise one or more account numbers, or a banking office address.

A data access and visualisation system according to an embodiment of the present invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the following Figures in which:

Figure 1 shows in schematic form components of the data access and
10 visualisation system;

Figure 2 shows a flow diagram of the process steps involved at high level in accessing and visualising data using the system of Figure 1;

Figure 3 shows a graphical display which might be accessed by a user in use of the system;

15 Figure 4 shows a display control window by means of which a graphical display according to Figure 3 might be controlled by a user in use of the system;

Figure 5 shows a data selection window by means of which data being visualised in use of the system can be selected by a user; and

20 Figure 6 shows a flow diagram of the process steps of Figure 2 represented at a more functional level.

A major problem in moving to geographically diverse data access is the method of delivery. To be of practical use the system should preferably be capable of allowing immediate access to data which is continually being produced. Different methods of data visualisation are appropriate to different data types and
25 so require different software in which to produce them. Although it would be possible for each user to procure and load the necessary software onto their local machines prior to receiving the data, this would involve delay and require a certain level of technical competence on the part of the user.

Referring to Figure 1, the data access and visualisation system provides
30 data to a user's personal computer (PC) 160 by means of one or more (in this case three) communications networks 130,140,150. That is, the user's PC 160 is connected via their own Local Area Network (LAN) 150 in known manner to a data network with high inter-connectivity between different sites, for instance an

"information superhighway" such as the Internet 140. In turn, the Internet is connected to a public network 130 with which the target database 120 is associated.

The target database 120 in the general case may belong to the user, albeit
5 in a different location or locations from their PC, or it may for instance be that of an independent service or information provider. In the embodiment described below, the database 120 is that of the public network provider and receives network management information from the public network 130 in the normal running of the network 130, including performance and traffic data. Hence the
10 database 120 is connected to a network management system 170 which processes (in known manner) management information from the network 130. It is also connected to the public network 130 for remote access to the management data.

The public network 130 itself provides the link from the Internet 140 to
15 the network provider's computing system 100. Access for the user to the remote computing system 100 is via a Common Gateway Interface (CGI) 110. (The CGI is a known protocol and is simply shown in Figure 1 as a functional block.)

The user's PC 160 is provided in known manner with a World Wide Web (WWW) browser 190 for locating and accessing information via the Internet 140.
20 A WWW browser 190 is not essential but is used in order to obviate the need to supply different software for users' differing computers. Several of these are currently available for accessing information from sites on the Internet 140 including Mosaic and Netscape (Trade Marks). However, in order to realise an embodiment of the present invention, a browser having capabilities equivalent to
25 those of "HotJava" (Trade Mark) developed by SUN Microsystems is required. That is, the browser should be able to retrieve not only text and images from the Internet 140, but also sections of executable code that can run on the user's own machine. If a HotJava browser is used, the code can run securely, within HotJava on the user's machine.

30 These sections of code are referred to as "applets" 180 and are written in the java programming language. In the embodiment of the invention described, the applets 180 will be stored on the network provider's computer system 100. They are only retrieved when it is necessary and are loaded automatically by the

browser 160, as described below. There is no need for the user to identify and load the relevant software locally. Details of HotJava can be found from WWW at <http://java.sun.com>.

Overall, the process for implementing the remote data access and visualisation technique covered in this patent application takes the following form. A user accesses a relevant page on the Internet, dedicated to the visualisation process, by using their WWW browser 190. The software to provide the appropriate visualisation tool is then downloaded from the remote computer 100 into the browser running on the user's own computer 160.

The exact form of the graphical user interface can vary depending on the type of data being accessed but it will always contain a mechanism for a user to select a specific set of data.

Referring to Figure 2, the operation of the system can be described by the following process steps:

STEP 200: the user locates and enters a WWW page provided by the public network provider;

STEP 205: visualisation software is downloaded, again provided by the public network provider;

STEP 210: the visualisation software is run on the user's browser 190;

STEP 215: the visualisation software prompts the user to request data;

STEP 220: once the user has identified the data to be requested, the visualisation tool communicates with the network provider's computer 100, requesting the identified data from the remote database 120. This causes a process to run on the network provider's computer 100, querying the database 120;

STEP 225: the remote database 120 responds by sending the requested data to the network provider's computer 100 which packages it in a form that can be viewed by the user at any one time and sends it to the user's browser 190;

STEP 230: the visualisation software presents the data to the user;

STEP 235: the user moves through the data using the visualisation tool.

After STEP 235, the user can return to STEP 215 and repeat STEPS 220 to 235 in respect of freshly requested data. The intention is that the user will employ the visualisation tool to look through the data that has been requested.

Once the user has gained all of the information required from a particular data set, they can request additional data from the remote machine 100 and the first data set can be discarded.

5 Example: Telephone Traffic Data Visualisation

In a specific implementation of the data access method described above, the data a user requests relates to the number of telephone calls made over the public network 130 to a specific number, belonging to the user, from different regions of the country. The data available in the database 120 has already been
10 processed by the network provider such that calls are grouped according to the trunk network exchange that they originate on and by the hour in which they were made.

Referring to Figure 3, a basic graphical display might then comprise a set
15 of towers 300, 305 extending in a three-dimensional representation from a map of the UK. The location of the towers 300, 305 shows the actual location of the trunk exchanges and the height and colour of each tower 300, 305 relate to the number of calls handled by the relevant exchange in a one hour period. (Such displays are of known type. Other display techniques could be substituted and will
20 generally be optimised for the nature of the data involved.)

Referring to Figure 1, the operation of the data access system is therefore as follows. The user enters the appropriate page on WWW, provided by the network provider, and is asked to enter the destination telephone number in which they are interested, in addition to their name and password. This will then run a
25 script 115 via the Common Gateway Interface (CGI) 110 on a remote server of the network provider's computer system 100 to check the authority of the user to access the appropriate data. Assuming that the authorisation is given, the script will return an html (Hyper Text Mark-up Language) page to the originating browser into which is included a line specifying the applet 180 which must be loaded in
30 order run the visualisation tool. Input information 125 to the applet 180 is also included on this line. In the case of a call record implementation this includes the location of a data file containing the outline map of the UK, a file giving the location of the towers 300, 305 and a file containing additional information about

each tower that will display when a tower is selected. More information about this selection is given later. In addition the appropriate address for accessing the data from the remote server is presented. On receiving this html page, the HotJava browser will load the applet 180 from wherever it is stored, which will
5 conveniently be from the remote server.

Once the applet 180 has successfully loaded into the browser 190 it will access the remote server to download the necessary map files. This is achieved using the standard remote file access features supplied with a release of HotJava available from <http://java.sun.com>. An initial display as shown in Figure 3 is then
10 drawn to the screen using the existing library functions available with HotJava. Depth cueing can be implemented in a call record visualisation exercise in order to give the user a visual guide to the orientation of the display.

Referring to Figures 4 and 5, in the call record implementation of the remote data access, the applet 180 causes three additional windows to be
15 displayed on the screen. These are the display control window (Figure 4), data selection window (Figure 5) and pick data windows (not shown). These windows are only open for the period that the user is inside, on the data access page.

Display Control

20

A geometry package has been developed which can be used as a platform for other visualisation applets that require the user to be able to manipulate a graphical object on the screen. The available functions are:

25 *rotation* - this is achieved by either placing the mouse pointer over the graphical display and dragging the mouse with the mouse button depressed in the required direction of rotation or alternatively by adjusting the slider bars on the display control window shown in Figure 4. All mouse control functions are provided in the HotJava applet library. The mechanism for rotating the object involves updating a
30 transformation matrix and applying it to the original graphical data set as the mouse is dragged across the screen. Following each matrix transformation the screen is redrawn. This is a standard computer graphics technique. Due to the computation overhead required in rotating the whole image in real time another

mode of rotation is available. In this case, on depressing the mouse button a box which fully bounds the graphical object is drawn on the screen in place of the full display. This contains far fewer components and so can be rotated far quicker than the full image. The two modes are selected using the mutually exclusive "Normal" and "Bounding Box" buttons on the display control screen. The bounding box technique is employed in other visualisation products, for example AVS.

scaling - the image can be made larger and smaller using the scaling slider bars on the display control window. The ability to scale the figure differently in three orthogonal planes is provided. Scaling is achieved via a transformation matrix in much the same way as rotation.

translation - the image can be moved around the screen using the translate slider bars on the display control window. Movement is divided into three orthogonal directions.

reset - this returns the display to a predefined orientation which is stored within the applet.

Data Selection

Referring to Figure 5, the data selection window offers the user the ability to choose the appropriate data set. In the case of the call record implementation, this involves selecting the appropriate hour and day for which data is required. This is done via a set of widgets 500 in the data selection window that allow the user to select the appropriate day, month and year. The widget sets are available in the Java widget libraries.

In addition to setting the date and time, any subset of data can also be selected at this point. In the call record example, the calls are split into two categories, effective and ineffective. Thus the user can select whether or not to

view the effective calls, ineffective calls or all calls (the sum of effective and ineffective).

Once the appropriate date and time has been selected, the user presses the "Retrieve Call Data" button 505. This initiates a query to a database 120 running on the remote server. In a call record implementation, it may be that the access time to retrieve data from the database 120 is considered to be unacceptable and a number of pre-prepared data files corresponding to individual hour slots can be produced. These can then be retrieved from the database 120 and a form of data compression carried out. That is, all extraneous white spaces and unwanted data can be removed from the resulting files to ensure the smallest possible file to increase the speed of transmission of the file from the server to the browser 190 across the Internet 140. In this case, depressing the "Retrieve Call Data" button 505 causes the browser 190 to request the file corresponding to the correct date and time from the remote server. This is achieved using the remote file access libraries supplied with HotJava.

In addition to retrieving data for a single period, the call record example can allow for the data representation to be animated. The user can select whether or not to animate over 24 hours, in which case the data is accessed one hour at a time from the server and displayed on the screen in a series of 24 frames. Alternatively the user can select to run over a week, in which case seven sets of data are retrieved corresponding to the selected hour on seven subsequent days. Selection of the one month option will result in a "calendar months" set of files being accessed for the selected hour and displayed on the screen in turn. At each point the animation can be started or halted by pressing the "Animate/Stop" button 510 on the data selection screen. This initiates or halts the loop which controls the remote data file access commands.

Data Picking

An additional feature available within the call record data access system is the ability to acquire additional data about individual towers. This data is contained in a file that is loaded shortly after the applet 180 and can be tailored to the requirements of individual users. Referring to Figure 4, to enable the data picking

- facility, the "Pick Information" button 400 on the display control window should be depressed. This will freeze the image of the towers 305, 310 and map outline on the screen. The locations of the towers 305, 310 are converted, via the transformation matrix, from three dimensional to two dimensional space and a two dimensional map is created on which the extents of each form a polygon. Where one tower obscures the view of another a check is made on the three dimensional data to ensure that the two dimensional map attributes the front tower an area corresponding to its fullest extent and the obscured tower only has an area equivalent to its unobscured portion.
- 10 Now as the mouse pointer tracks across the display a check is made to see when the pointer enters a tower area on the two dimensional map. When this occurs the tower is redrawn in white and the information corresponding to that tower is displayed in text form in the pick data window. Further information about the specific location can be accessed by depressing the mouse button at this point.
- 15 This causes the browser to access a different html page, the address of which is stored in the towers data file, and to shut down the additional windows that were opened by the java applet. (The ability to move to other html pages from within a java applet is provided in the java libraries.)

20 Data Exchanges

Referring to Figure 6, this section describes the precise mechanisms in which data is accessed and passed around the data visualisation system.

25 Authorisation

- On entering the welcoming WWW page (STEPS 600, 605) the user is required (STEP 610) to input the telephone number for which they require data and a password (STEP 615) associated with this number. This is implemented using the FORM , ACTION and METHOD tags specified in the html (Hypertext Markup Language). Following this action a process is initiated on the remote server, using the Common Gateway Interface (CGI), which will examine the password and telephone number combination to ensure that they correspond (STEP 620). If this
- 30

is the case, the process will form a file in html, including the Java applet tag indicating the location of the visualisation application, which is returned to the browser at the local host. The WWW browser running at the local host accepts this as a new page and downloads and launches the data visualisation application.

5

Data Retrieval

The visualisation application allows the user to select the data to be retrieved via a graphical user interface (STEP 625). Once the user has requested a particular set of data another process, referred to hereafter as the retrieval process 135, is created on the remote server using CGI. The arguments passed to the retrieval process 135 identify the data that is required. It is the retrieval process (STEP 630), running on the remote server that forms a query using SQL (Standard Query Language) which is used to extract the necessary data from the Call Records Database (STEP 635). The Call Records Database could be one of a number of commercially available databases, for example ORACLE. The result of the query on the database is received by the retrieval process and compressed (STEP 640) to produce a binary file. The binary file is accessed by the local host using the standard libraries supplied with the Java language and unpacked to provide the data required by the visualisation software (STEP 645).

The commercial software required to provide this system includes a database containing the call records and a WWW server running on the remote server in addition to a Java compatible WWW browser running on the local host. The additional software developed to produce this system includes the visualisation application itself, written in Java, in addition to the authorisation and retrieval processes on the remote server. These could be written in any suitable language, including for instance "C".

CLAIMS

1. A remote data access system, comprising a data store accessible by means of a data access network, and a data browser for locating data in the store and downloading it over the network to a user station, wherein there is further provided data visualisation software for selecting and controlling presentation of the data, the data browser being adapted to download the data visualisation software over the network, and to run said software at the user station to select and control presentation of data downloaded from the data store.
2. A system according to Claim 1 wherein the data visualisation software includes means for accessing the data store to download a set of data therefrom to the user station.
3. A system according to either one of the preceding Claims wherein the data store comprises data sets which are protected by an authentication procedure and the data visualisation software includes means for satisfying the authentication procedure in respect of at least one of said data sets.
4. A system according to any one of the preceding Claims wherein the data store comprises call records in respect of a communications network.
5. A system according to Claim 3 wherein the communications network is a different network with respect to the data access network.
6. A system according to Claims 3 and 4 wherein the data sets each carry the call records for a respective service provider making services available over the communications network.
7. A system according to Claim 4, or to either one of Claims 5 or 6 as dependent on Claim 4, wherein said call records are updated at intervals of no more than twenty four hours such that the system is able to provide a near real-time view to the user station.

8. A system according to any one of Claims 4, 5, 6 or 7 wherein the communications network is provided with a billing system for outputting bills to users of the network, and the data store of the remote data access system
5 comprises at least part of a call record store used to store and output call data to the billing system in respect of the communications network.

9. A data visualisation system for enabling remote access by a user to a database, the user having a user station equipped with a browser capable of
10 downloading and running software, the data visualisation system comprising:

- i) a computer system provided with one or more modules of software for use in visualising data, and provided with means responsive to a request from the user station to output or copy one or more of said modules of software to the user station; and
 - 15 ii) a database accessible by the user under the control of the computer system to output data to the user station, and comprising data stored in a form which can be queried by the one or more modules of software when downloaded together with the software to the user station;
- the arrangement being such that data can be downloaded from the database to the
20 user station, under control of the computer system in response to user inputs at the user station, the computer system also providing one or more of said modules of software to the user station, such that the user can visualise the data by means of said one or more modules at the user station.

25 10. A system according to claim 9 wherein the data comprises communications traffic data.

11. A system according to either one of claims 9 or 10 wherein the one or more modules of software comprise data visualisation software for visualising
30 communications traffic in a communications network.

12. A system according to claim 11 wherein the spatial distribution of the traffic in the network can be visualised.

13. A system according to either one of claims 11 or 12 wherein the temporal distribution of the traffic data can be visualised.
- 5 14. A system according to any one of claims 11 to 13 wherein the data is arranged at least in part in data sets, each data set comprising traffic data accumulated over an interval of time.
- 10 15. A system according to any one of claims 11 to 14 wherein data to be downloaded to the user station relates to a common destination number, or set of numbers, in a communications network.
- 15 16. A system according to any one of claims 11 to 15 wherein the computer system also provides network management of a communications network and the data relates to traffic in that network.
17. A system according to any one of claims 11 to 16 wherein the computer system comprises means for processing the data prior to downloading to the user station so as to reduce the transmission capacity required for said downloading.
- 20 18. A system according to any one of claims 11 to 17 wherein the computer system is provided with means to authenticate a request by a user for data to be downloaded.
- 25 19. A method of providing data visualisation to a remote user, of data stored in a database in a form which can be queried by a data visualisation software tool, which method comprises storing the data visualisation software tool in a computer system, receiving a request to the computer system from a remote user for the tool, authenticating the request and outputting or copying the tool to the user,
- 30 receiving a request from the user for data from the database by means of the tool, accessing the database and providing the data to the user.

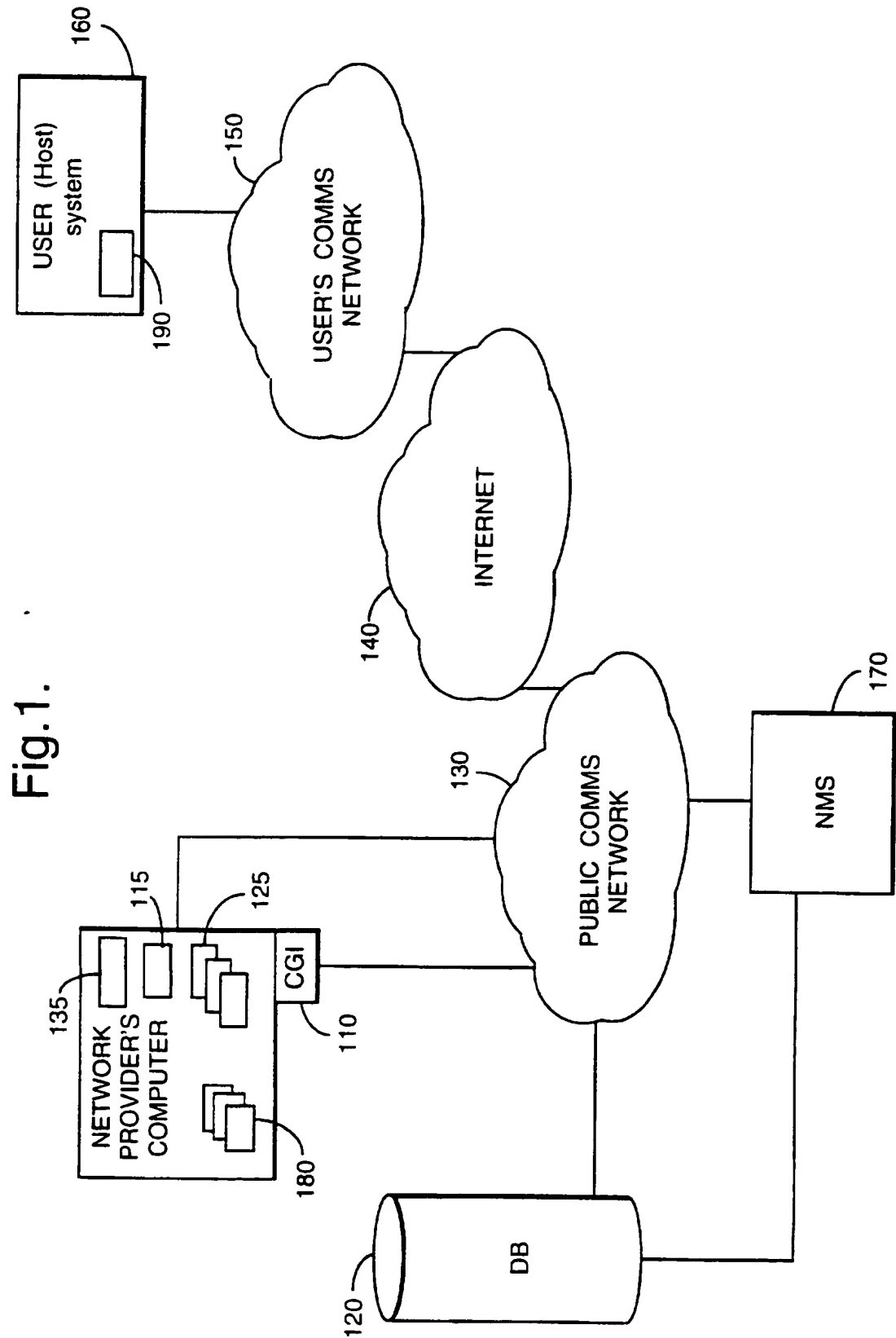
20. A method according to claim 19 wherein the data comprises communications traffic data in a network.

21. A method according to claim 20 wherein the network to which the data is
5 relevant is used at least in part to transmit the data to the user station and the computer system provides network management of said network.

22. A remote access data visualisation system comprising:

- i) a communications network;
 - 10 ii) access means for use in accessing a database;
 - iii) means for receiving a user request in relation to visualisation of data stored in the database; and
 - iv) a data visualisation software tool stored, when not in use by a user, in relation to the network so as to be downloadable over the network to a user
15 location,
- wherein the system is adapted to respond to a received user request in relation to data visualisation by downloading:
- a) the data visualisation tool; and
 - b) location information for data for use by the tool in visualisation,
20 to the user location.

23. A system according to Claim 22 wherein the database holds traffic management statistics in relation to a communications network and the means for receiving a user request comprises means for reading an identifier for one or more
25 telephone numbers of the network, the or each data visualisation tool downloaded in response to a request thereafter being enabled only to visualise traffic data in relation to the telephone number(s) identified in that request.



2/4

Fig.2.

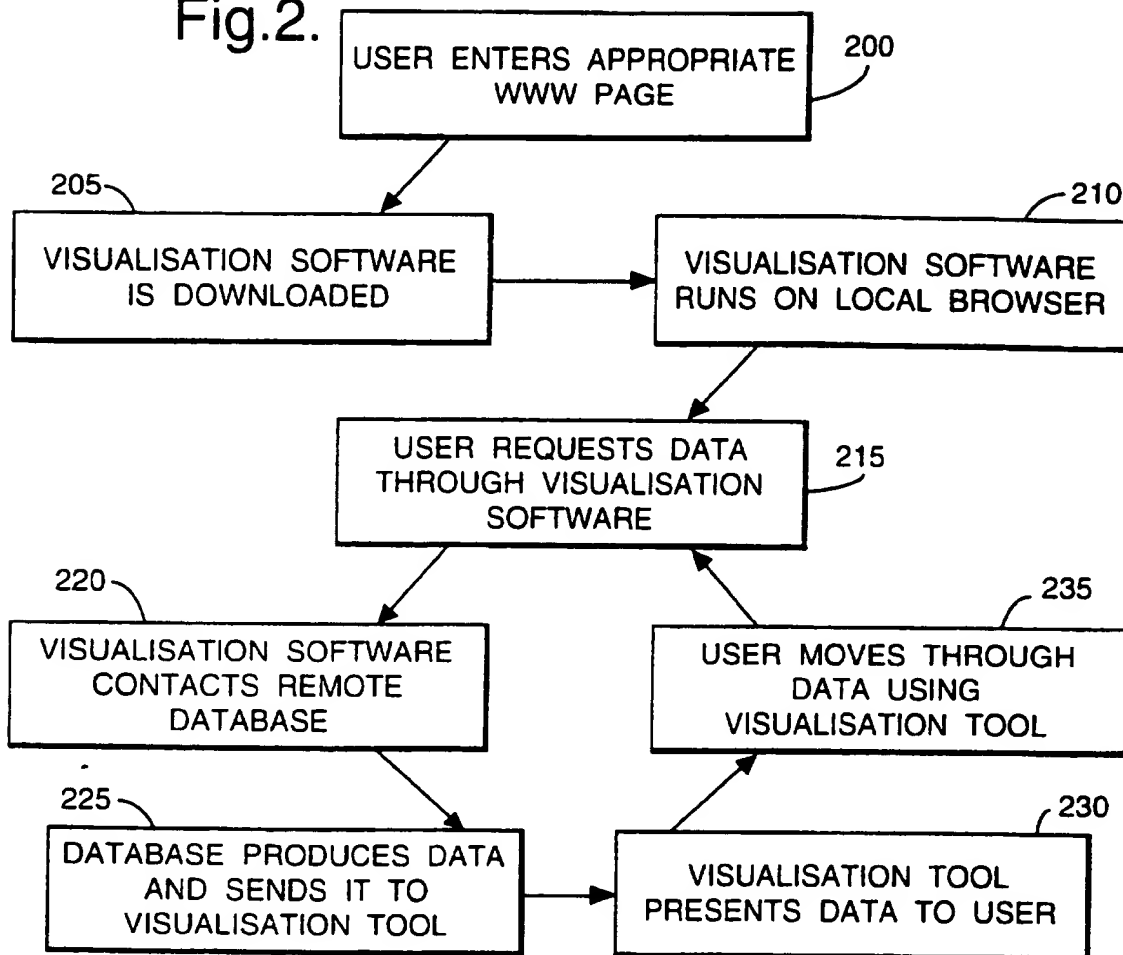


Fig.3.

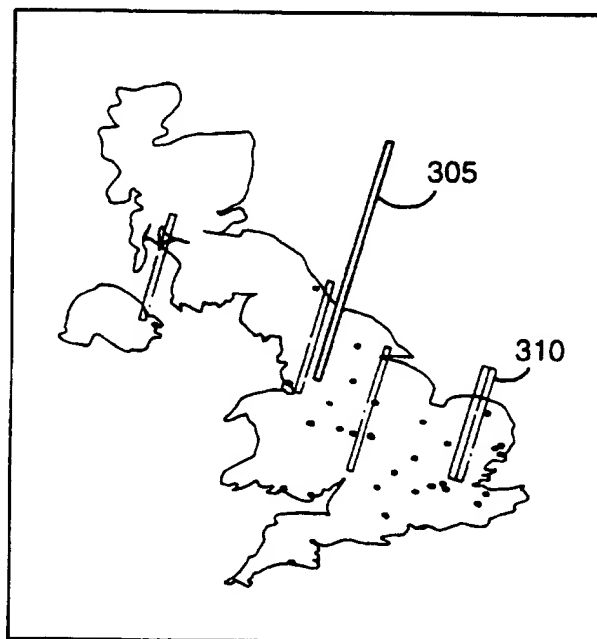


Fig.4.

400

☐ Normal Mode

☐ Bounding Box

☐ Pick Information

☐ Reset

☐ RGB

☐ HSV

☐ HLS

Scale X Y Z

150	150	150
-----	-----	-----

Rotate X Y Z

10		0
----	--	---

Translate X Y Z

0	0	0
---	---	---

Fig.5.

500

Date

Friday

Day

1

Month

October

Year

1993

Time

12:00

☐ Effective

☐ Ineffective

☐ All Calls

☐ Retrieve Call Data

☐ 24 hours

☐ 1 week

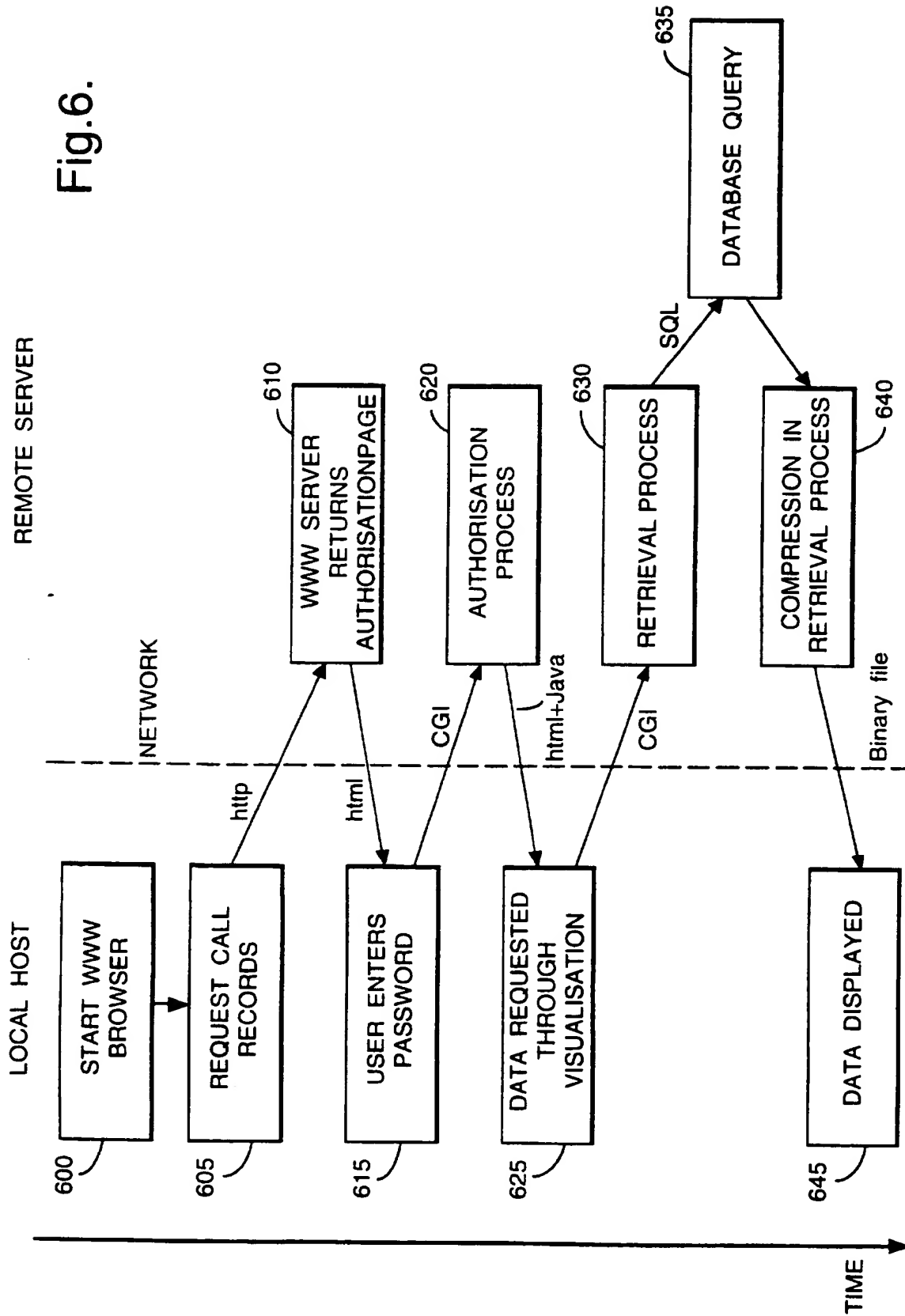
☐ 1 month

☐ Animate/Stop

505

510

Fig.6.



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter national Application No
PCT/GB 96/02528

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 6 G06F9/46

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 6 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	OBJEKTSPECTRUM, no. 5, September 1995 - October 1995, MUNICH, DE, pages 68-69, XP002003462 HANS-PETER WIEDLING: "HotJava - Ein WWW-Browser für nachladbare Objekte" see the whole document ---	1-23
A	SCIENTIFIC COMPUTING WORLD, no. 6, March 1995, UK, XP000571217 DENNIS MORALEE: "Scientific graphics and visualization come to the Internet" pages 31, 33-34, 36 see the whole document --- -/--	1,9,19, 22

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☐ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

21 January 1997

Date of mailing of the international search report

06.02.97

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Fonderson, A

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter: nal Application No
PCT/GB 96/02528

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No. -
P,A	<p>COMPUTER NETWORKS AND ISDN SYSTEMS, vol. 28, no. 1/02, 1 December 1995, pages 231-238, XP000570722 BOSTON A N ET AL: "INTERACTIVE SPECIES DISTRIBUTION REPORING, MAPPING AND MODELLING USING THE WORLD WIDE WEB" -----</p>	<p>1,9,19, 22</p>